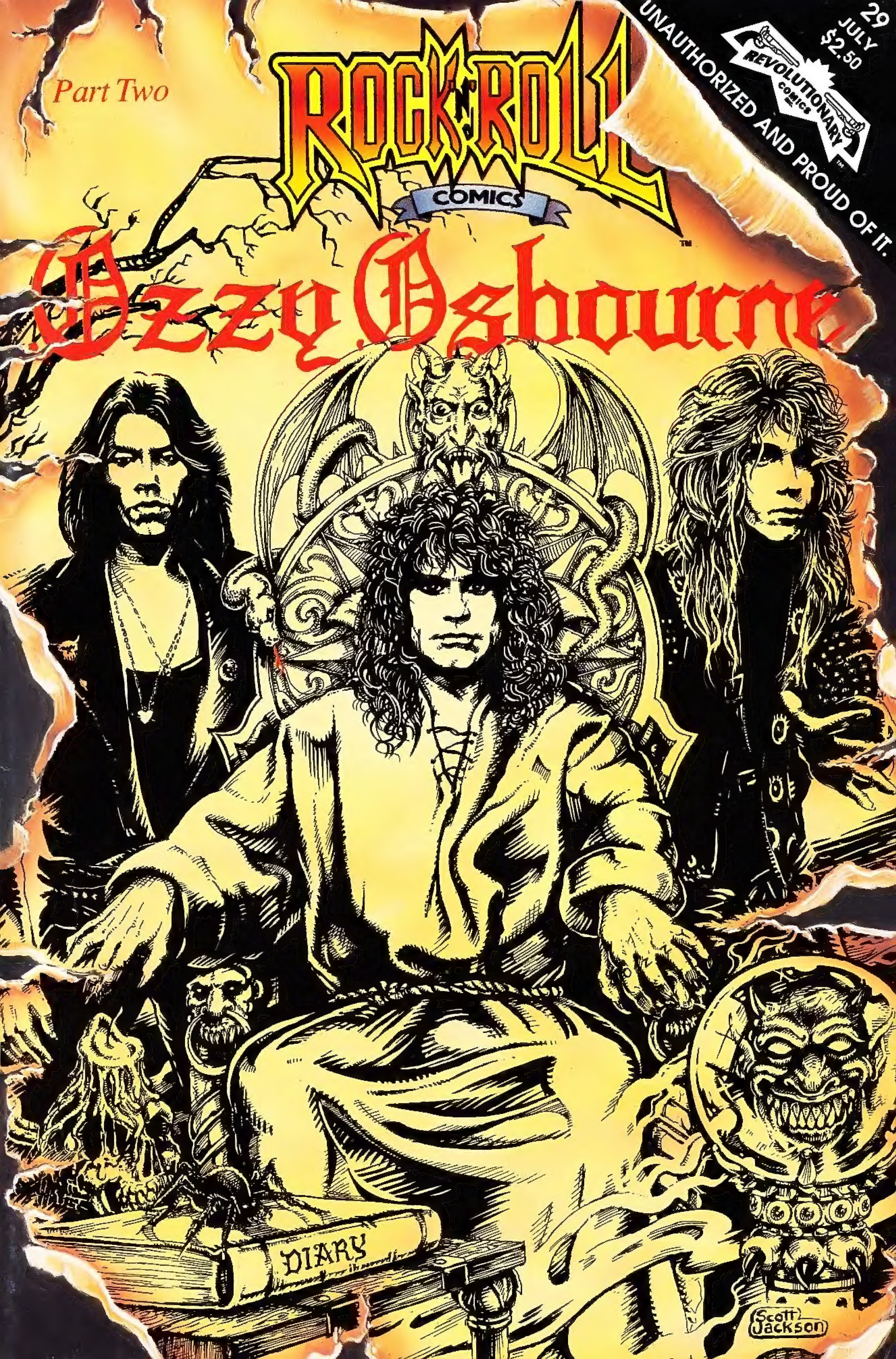

Part Two
ROCK 'N' ROLL COMICS
Ozzy Osbourne
29 JULY $2.50
REVOLUTIONARY COMICS
UNAUTHORIZED AND PROUD OF IT.
DIARY
Scott Jackson

☆☆☆ REVOLUTIONARY COMMENTS ☆☆☆

3841 Fourth Ave., Suite 229 ❒ San Diego, CA 92103

By Todd Loren

HOW WE WRITE ROCK N' ROLL COMICS

HOW TO GET FROM FACT "A" TO FACT "B"

A lot of people have written in wondering just how we come up with the information which you see in Rock N' Roll Comics. How do we know exactly what was said, at a given time, between two people unless we were actually there, for instance? Well...we don't. No one does. Let's face it, do you remember *exactly* what you said during a conversation which you had several months ago? See, no one really remembers such things, but it is possible to make certain conclusions as to what *probably* took place, based on known facts. Y'see, in any story there are certain *known facts*, which have been confirmed repeatedly by various sources. In order to illustrate what went on between the occurance of "Fact A" and "Fact B", we "draw a line" between the two known facts, and that line is actually a link between facts, it is a *probable incident*. (See illustration). When you see a conversation going on between band members, it's very possible that this conversation might not have occurred exactly as we've shown it. However, we've gone to great lengths to note the personalities of the characters, and the circumstances surrounding the incidents in question, to be able to safely conclude that it is well within the realm of possibility that such a conversation did take place. For instance, if we show two people having a conversation which didn't actually take place, the fact that circumstances surrounding this depiction suggest that it easily could've happened and as long as the conversation stays within the boundaries of probability (in context with what occurred before and after), then it is fair to say that such a depiction falls within the boundaries of "poetic license", which Webster defines as: "a poet's or artist's right to deviate, for artistic effect, from literal fact and strict rules of form, grammar, etc."

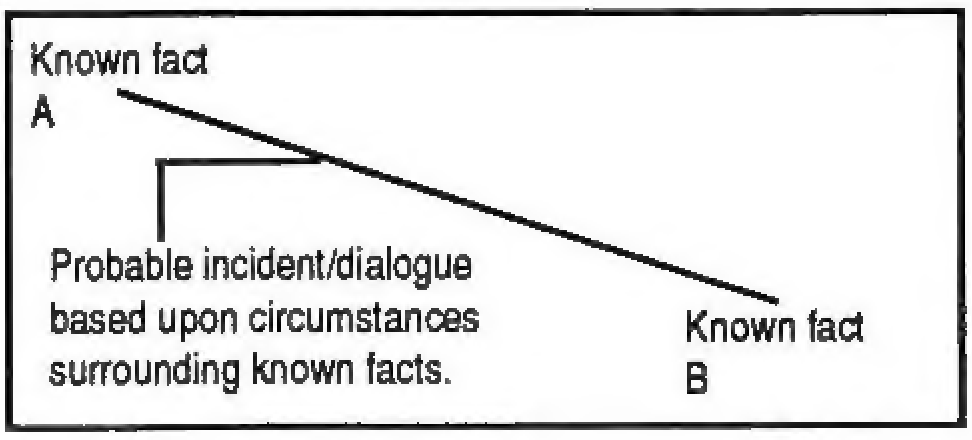
COMMITMENT TO ACCURACY

Now, for those of you who've been with us for awhile, you are aware of the fact that we do not want to write "expose's" like Kitty Kelley and Albert Goldman. We are breaking new ground in *three categories at once:* literary, artistic, and legal. So the rules are being written as we go. I'd just like it to be clear that it is our intention to make sure we are accurate, and, unlike the Albert Goldmans of the world, we invite corrections, and print them. We invite the people we write about to correct any errors as well! We will gladly print any letter they send!

RESEARCH, RESEARCH, RESEARCH!

In my office I have rows of file cabinets, all filled with articles about everyone in the entertainment business. It's all in alphabetical order, and it includes articles from just about every magazine there is. I've been known to go into used record stores which sell old copies of rock n' roll magazines, and buy them stacks at a time, and spend the entire weekend clipping, clipping, clipping. I even get my co-workers, specifically Debbie Borchers, to clip, clip, clip her weekend away.

So...let's say, I decide to do a book on...Ozzy Osbourne. I simply open up my file to "O", plus I check out "B" for Black Sabbath, maybe "R" for Randy Rhoads, and perhaps "D" for "Devil Worship" (just kidding), "D" for "Dio", and send the whole stack to the writer. He uses this material to help research the stories. When I get the script back from the writer, I go through and note every guest appearance in the book, and make a list of them: Motley Crue, Ratt, Whitesnake, etc. Then I pull files for artist references, and send them to the artist to make sure he gets it right! It's not like a superhero comic or a fantasy which is just made up, there's a lot of work that goes behind making sure Rock N' Roll Comics is as true an accounting of what really happened as is possible! The payoff is the finished product. Putting out a quality book means a lot to all of us, and we know that our readers appreciate quality. We know that our readers don't buy our books just because they have their favorite bands on the cover. If that was all there was to it, I'd just as soon sell buttons and t-shirts. We're creating something here, something we care about. Peace.



COMING UP...
Rock N' Roll Comics 30 - The Cure, 31-Vanilla Ice, 32 - Frank Zappa, 33-Guns N' Roses '91, 34-The Black Crowes.
***Plus:* A new title-CONSPIRACY COMICS #1! Who really killed Marilyn Monroe? Was it suicide or muder? Find out!**

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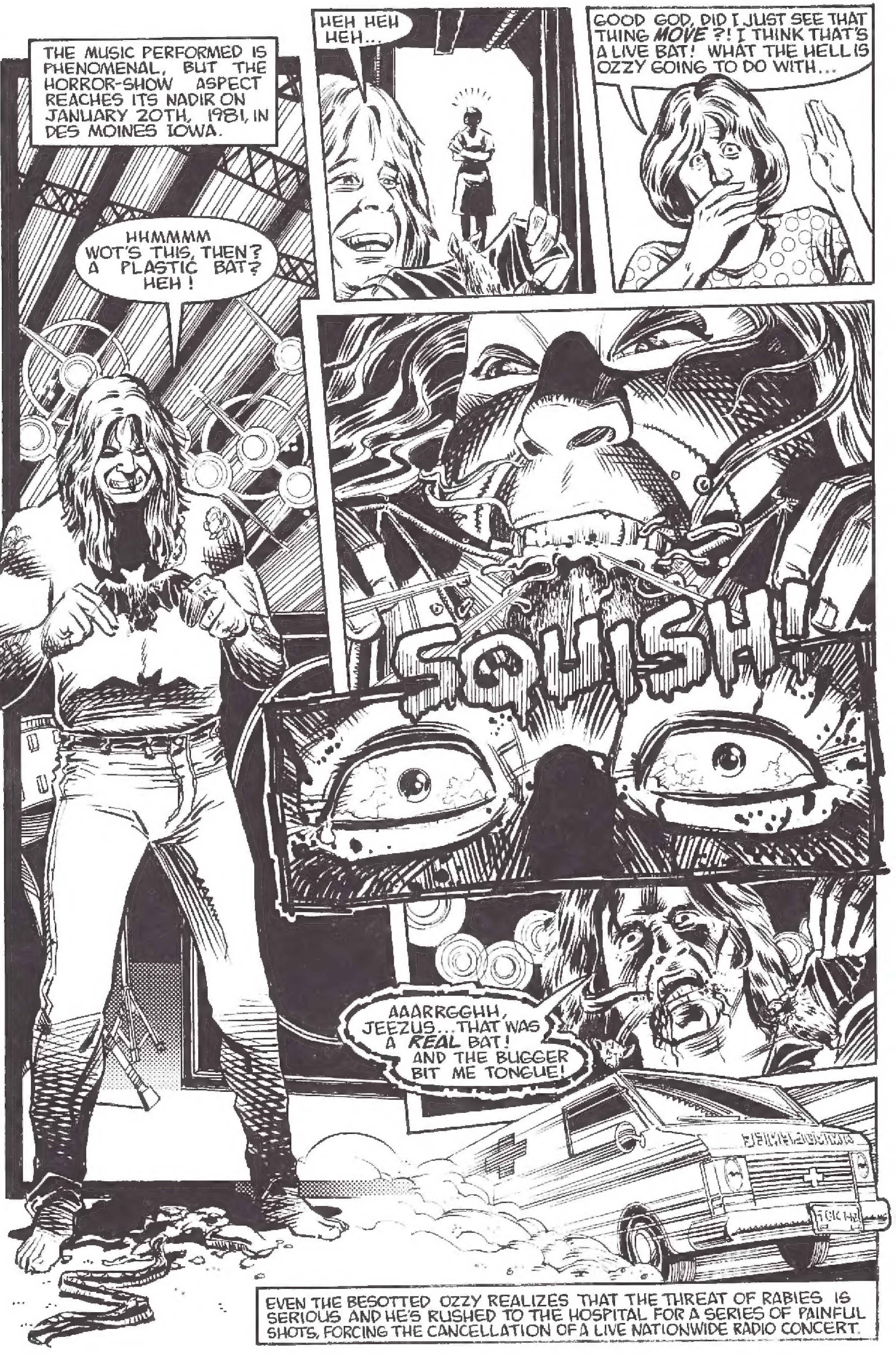
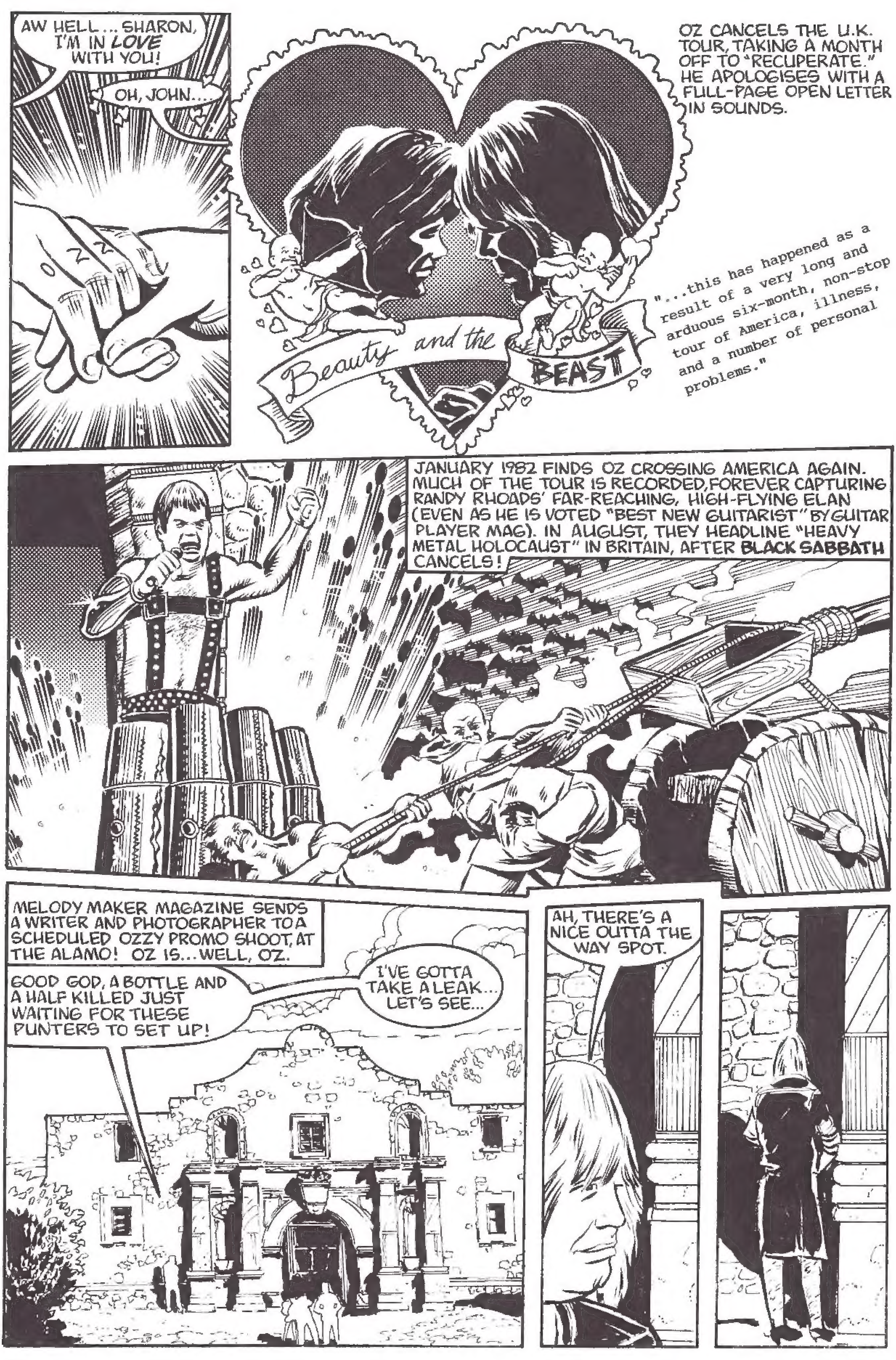
WRITER: JAY ALLEN SANFORD ARTIST/LETTERER: MARC ERICKSON EDITED BY TODD LOREN

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
T.V., RADIO, NEWSPAPERS... IT SAYS HERE THAT THE HUMANE SOCIETY PLANS A NATIONWIDE BOYCOTT OF MY RECORDS AND SHOWS!
Los Angeles Times
MAN BITES HEAD
WOTTA BUNCH OF HYPOCRITES.
THEY'LL EAT MEAT IF SOMEONE *ELSE* KILLS IT! I'D LIKE TO OPEN A RESTAU-RANT AND, EVERY TIME SOME-ONE ORDERS A STEAK, MARCH IN A COW AND KILL IT IN FRONT OF 'EM!
THIS PUBLICITY'LL SELL US ANOTHER MILLION RECORDS!
THE RECORD COMPANY, HOWEVER, IS NOT AMUSED.
AT THE VERY LEAST, WE SHOULD BAN THAT LUNATIC FROM EVER SETTING FOOT IN ONE OF OUR OFFICES AGAIN!
WHAT ABOUT JUST DROPPING HIM FROM THE LABEL?
WELL, LET'S SEE IF WE CAN WEATHER THE MEDIA STORM. HIS RECORDS AND SHOWS *ARE* SELLING...... NO SENSE SACRIFICING THE SACRED CASH COW. AT LEAST NOT YET...
THE CONCERTS ARE AMONG THE YEAR'S HOTTEST AND BEST ATTENDED, AS TOMMY ENTERTAINS THE METAL MASSES WITH HIS TRADEMARK HAND-POUNDING DRUM SOLOS.
OZZY ROOLS
DIO DROOLS
BOOM!

OZ AND SHARON IGNORE THE ADVERSE PRESS AND ENJOY THE GLOW OF A SUCCESSFUL ALBUM AND TOUR.
THIS IS GREAT!
IT TOOK ME AGES TO GET OVER SABBATH.
I LOST MILLIONS THROUGH ALL THE RIP-OFFS, AND WHEN IT WAS OVER I JUST DIDN'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING!
BUT THIS BAND HAS REVITALIZED ME!
RIGHT NOW, I CAN HONESTLY SAY MY ONLY UNFULFILLED AMBITION LEFT IN LIFE IS TO GO TO EGYPT, STAND ON TOP OF THE CENTRAL PYRAMID, AND PISS ALL OVER IT!!!
OH, JOHN, YOU'RE SUCH A LOVELY DINNER COMPANION...
ON THE ROAD, THE GROUP FEATURES A LOW-KEY, OFFSTAGE SYNTH PLAYER, LYNDSAY BRIDGEWATER.
LYNDSAY'S FINALLY ASLEEP!
LET'S SHAVE OFF HALF HIS HAIR AND ONE EYEBROW!!
AAAAHHHHHHHHHH!
ANOTHER BRAINSTORM IS THE FLYER DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT CITIES WHERE OZ'S CONCERTS ARE SCHEDULED.
BRING YOUR LIVER
TO AN OZZY SHOW
AND TOSS IT
ONSTAGE...
HE'LL THROW IT
RIGHT BACK AT YOU!
FANS START THROWING LIVER, STEAKS, PLASTIC RATS, RUBBER SNAKES AND ALL SORTS OF NAUSEATING OFFAL ONSTAGE AT OZ SHOWS .... OZ LATER CATAPULTS THE ROADKILL BACK INTO THE AUDIENCE, "LA DANCE MACABRE GUIGNOL."


THE MUSIC PERFORMED IS PHENOMENAL, BUT THE HORROR-SHOW ASPECT REACHES ITS NADIR ON JANUARY 20TH, 1981, IN DES MOINES IOWA.
HEH HEH HEH...
GOOD GOD, DID I JUST SEE THAT THING MOVE ?! I THINK THAT'S A LIVE BAT! WHAT THE HELL IS OZZY GOING TO DO WITH...
HHMMMM WOT'S THIS, THEN? A PLASTIC BAT? HEH!
SQUISH!
AAARRGGHH, JEEZUS...THAT WAS A REAL BAT! AND THE BUGGER BIT ME TONGUE!
EVEN THE BESOTTED OZZY REALIZES THAT THE THREAT OF RABIES IS SERIOUS AND HE'S RUSHED TO THE HOSPITAL FOR A SERIES OF PAINFUL SHOTS, FORCING THE CANCELLATION OF A LIVE NATIONWIDE RADIO CONCERT.

THE LONG-FINISHED "DIARY" ALBUM IS RELEASED TO CAPITALIZE ON THE SUBSEQUENT HYSTERICAL PRESS. BY FALL, IT HAS SOLD A MILLION COPIES.
NOW THE MADMAN IS A BAT-BITER! I HOPE THE BAT GOT OZZY SHOTS!
WHAT WORRIES ME IS THAT OUR CHILDREN ARE BUYING THIS SATANIC TRASH! THE COVERS AND THE RUNE-LIKE LETTERING ARE DESIGNED TO ATTRACT AND DEVELOP OCCULTISM. THERE ARE OFTEN HIDDEN, ANTI-CHRISTIAN MESSAGES....
IN NOVEMBER 1982, THE U.S. ROAD CIRCUS IS FINALLY DONE.
WOW, SHARON, WHAT A YEAR.
THE DIVORCE IS ALMOST FINAL, THE TOUR IS OVER ....I'M BEAT!
ALL THE MORE REASON TO CUT BACK ON THE LIQUOR, JOHN.
THE BRITISH "DIARY" TOUR STARTS SOON!
YEAH, I KNOW. "KEEP MOVIN'", JUST LIKE THE OLD DAYS! GAR, EVEN THE *FOOD* IS STILL AWFUL! THIS TASTES LIKE ONE OF LEMMY'S TURDS, OR A DOG'S KNOB! AND WHAT'S *THIS* WHALE SPERM...
WHY DO I PERSIST IN EATING WITH YOU?! YOU'RE AN ANIMAL!
THAT'S WHY YOU LOVE ME, INNIT? LISTEN, SHARON, I'VE BEEN THINKING...
WOULD YOU, UH, WOULD YOU EVER CONSIDER...
THAT IS, HOW DO YOU FEEL TOWARDS...


AW HELL... SHARON, I'M IN *LOVE* WITH YOU!
OH, JOHN...
OZ
OZ CANCELS THE U.K. TOUR, TAKING A MONTH OFF TO "RECUPERATE." HE APOLOGISES WITH A FULL-PAGE OPEN LETTER IN SOUNDS.
"...this has happened as a result of a very long and arduous six-month, non-stop tour of America, illness, and a number of personal problems."
Beauty and the BEAST
JANUARY 1982 FINDS OZ CROSSING AMERICA AGAIN. MUCH OF THE TOUR IS RECORDED, FOREVER CAPTURING RANDY RHOADS' FAR-REACHING, HIGH-FLYING ELAN (EVEN AS HE IS VOTED "BEST NEW GUITARIST" BY GUITAR PLAYER MAG). IN AUGUST, THEY HEADLINE "HEAVY METAL HOLOCAUST" IN BRITAIN, AFTER **BLACK SABBATH** CANCELS!
MELODY MAKER MAGAZINE SENDS A WRITER AND PHOTOGRAPHER TO A SCHEDULED OZZY PROMO SHOOT, AT THE ALAMO! OZ IS... WELL, OZ.
GOOD GOD, A BOTTLE AND A HALF KILLED JUST WAITING FOR THESE PUNTERS TO SET UP!
I'VE GOTTA TAKE A LEAK... LET'S SEE...
AH, THERE'S A NICE OUTTA THE WAY SPOT.

WHY YOU DIRTY BASTARD! HOW *DARE* YOU TAKE A LEAK ON THE ALAMO, YOU SICK FILTHY HIPPIE!
WHA... THE ALAMO?! OH CRAP, I DIDN'T REALIZE....
... IT WAS A MISTAKE! BESIDES, WHEN THE MEXICANS ATTACKED IT, THERE MUST HAVE BEEN MORE THAN JUST PISS RUNNIN' DOWN THE WALLS!
MY, WHAT A LOVELY LITTLE ONE *YOU* ARE! WHAT ARE *YOU* DOIN' HERE, MISSY? *I'M* IN FOR KNOCKING OFF MY BITCH OF A WIFE...
MAN, POOR OL' OZ... I'VE REALLY DONE IT TO MESELF THIS TIME, I HAVE!
THE ENSUING GIGS ARE UNSETTLED DENS OF MASS PARANOIA, AS FREQUENT ATTENDEES INCLUDE POLICE SQUADS, THE FBI, PROTESTERS HUMANE SOCIETY REPS, AND ANGRY MOMS AND PATRIOTS FROM ALL OVER THE NATION.
GOD LOVES YOU
SAVE OUR KIDS
OZZY GO HOME!
SATAN
REMEMBER THE CONTRACT...NO LIVE ANIMALS, LEWD BEHAVIOR, OBSCENITY, SUGGESTIVE LYRICS, INCITING LAWLESSNESS, NECROPHILIA, ADVOCATING SATANISM AND/OR DRUG USE.
JEEZUS, IS IS OKAY IF I *SING*?!
DON'T GET COCKY, OR WE'LL KICK YOUR FILTHY ASS!
THE PUBLICITY BONANZA IS (AS USUAL) WORTH MILLIONS. BY MID-1981 "BLIZZARD OF OZZ" AND "DIARY" ARE DOUBLE PLATINUM IN THE U.S.

LET'S TAKE A BREAK FROM THE CRAZY TRAIN AND CHECK IN WITH HIS REPLACEMENT IN SABBATH, RONNIE JAMES DIO.
WE LAST SAW THE DIMINUTIVE BELLOWER BIDDING SABBATH A NOT-SO-FOND ADIEU. *
YOU GUYS'LL SINK LIKE A STEEL DUCK WITHOUT ME!
* LAST ISH! -TODD
IN 1982, DIO CHECKS IN WITH FORMER SABBATH STAND-BY VINNIE APPICE, IN L.A.
I'M HEADING TO ENGLAND TO FORM A BAND, A REAL CO-OPERATIVE GROUP EFFORT. WE'RE GONNA BE THE HARDEST, DEEPEST METAL BAND EVER!
HOW'D YOU LIKE TO DRUM FOR US?
A "GROUP EFFORT" HUH? WHAT'RE YOU CALLING IT?
WHAT ELSE?
"DIO."
DIO AND VINNIE RECRUIT EX-**RAINBOW** PLAYER JIMMY BAIN.
SO, ARE YOU IN JIMMY?
SURE, I LIKE SCIENCE FICTION ROCK! Y'KNOW WHO YOU MIGHT WANT TO LOOK UP...GUY FROM **SWEET SAVAGE**, VIVIAN CAMPBELL! HE *LOVES* THAT ROBERT HOWARD AND LOVECRAFT STUFF THAT YOU'RE INTO!
THE FIRST ALBUM, "HOLY DIVER" IS OUT IN 1983 (RONNIE PRODUCES), AND IS A STONE SUCCESS AMONG METAL CONTINGENTS ON BOTH CONTINENTS. DIO'S SOLO STRETCH WILL CONTINUE (WITH VARYING DEGREES OF SUCCESS) THROUGH 1990'S "LOCK UP THE WOLVES", INCLUDING LONG-FORM VIDEOS, CONCERT FILMS, LIVE E.P.'S, AND BESTSELLING HEADLINE TOURS.
BACK ON THE OZZY FRONT, HOWEVER...

MARCH 18TH 1982: OZ AND COMPANY PLAY A FIERY SET FOR THE RESIDENTS OF KNOXVILLE TENNESSEE.
"I'M GOING OFF THE RAILS OF A CRAZY TRAIN..."
CHARGED WITH DRIVING THE BAND TO THE NEXT SHOW, IN ORLANDO FLORIDA, IS BUS DRIVER ANDREW AYCOCK.
IT IS LATER REPORTED THAT AYCOCK PROBABLY TOOK COCAINE THAT EVENING, THOUGH HIS ENJOYMENT OF THE ILLICIT HIGH IS HINDERED BY THE PRESENCE OF HIS EX-WIFE, WITH WHOM HE SPENDS THE ENTIRE NIGHT ARGUING.
BY MORNING, THEY'RE AT A BUS DEPOT 40 MILES NORTH OF ORLANDO, ADJACENT TO A SMALL RURAL AIRFIELD.
HEY GUYS, CHECK IT OUT. YOU CAN GO UP IN THE PLANES NEXT DOOR...Y'KNOW, I HAVE A PILOT'S LICENSE!
WE SHOULD GO OUT FOR A LITTLE JOYRIDE...
OZZY

AYCOCK TAKES THE TOUR MANAGER AND A PHOTOGRAPHER UP FOR A SPIN
AFTER LANDING...
AW, C'MON RANDY! IT'LL BE A *BLAST*! YOU CAN SEE THE WHOLE COUNTRY-SIDE!
OH MAN, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS... I'M NOT TOO FOND OF PLANES. I REALLY DON'T THINK...
AYCOCK, WHO'S BEEN UP ALL NIGHT WITH NO SLEEP, SOME-HOW PRODS RANDY RHOADS AND THE GROUP'S 56 YEAR-OLD MAKEUP ARTIST, RACHEL YOUNGBLOOD, INTO TAKING A RIDE ON THE BEECHCRAFT BONANZA PLANE.
OZZY
WHAT NOBODY KNEW AT THE TIME WAS THAT AYCOCK HAD LOST HIS PILOT'S LICENSE DUE TO A HELI-COPTER ACCIDENT IN WHICH A YOUNG BOY HAD BEEN KILLED.
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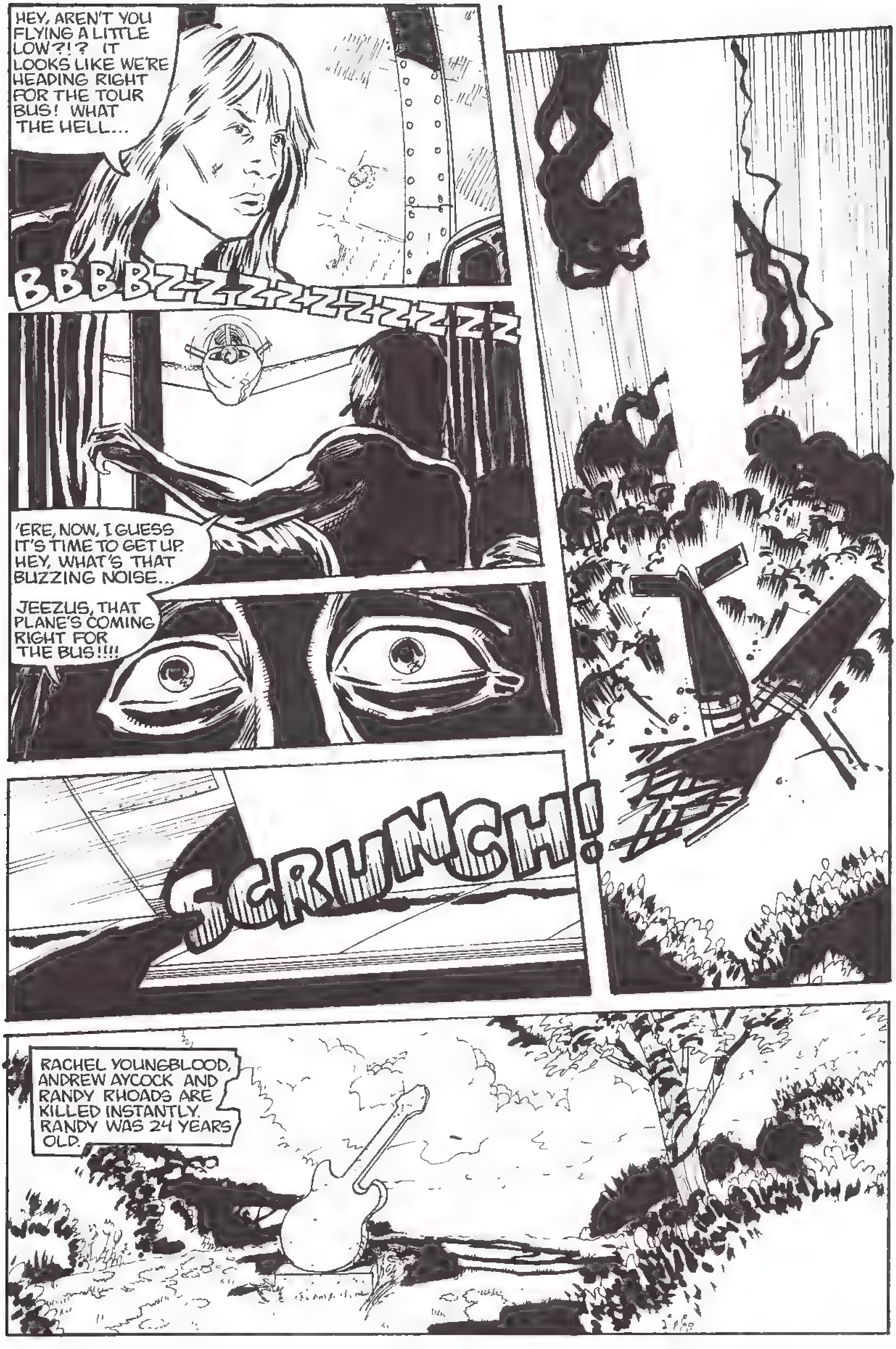
HEY, AREN'T YOU FLYING A LITTLE LOW?!? IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE HEADING RIGHT FOR THE TOUR BUS! WHAT THE HELL...
BBBBZ-ZZZZZZZZZZ
'ERE, NOW, I GUESS IT'S TIME TO GET UP. HEY, WHAT'S THAT BUZZING NOISE...
JEEZUS, THAT PLANE'S COMING RIGHT FOR THE BUS!!!!
SCRUNCH!
RACHEL YOUNGBLOOD, ANDREW AYCOCK AND RANDY RHOADS ARE KILLED INSTANTLY. RANDY WAS 24 YEARS OLD.

GOOD GOD, SHARON. FOR ONCE EVERYTHING WAS GOING GREAT, THEN *THIS* HAS TO HAPPEN!
IF I DON'T GRAB THIS HORROR BY THE BALLS AND WRESTLE IT TO STAGE, I'LL NEVER HAVE THE NERVE TO FACE ANOTHER AUDIENCE! WE'VE GOT TO FIND SOME-BODY TO HELP US WITH THE TOUR...
AFTER A FEW FALSE STARTS (BERNI TORME, FROM THE **IAN GILLAN BAND**, COMPLETES THE LIVE DATES), OZ THINKS HE'S FOUND A SUIT-ABLE AXE-SLINGER.
YER A PISTOL, KID. YOU'LL DO FINE! WHAT WAS YOUR NAME AGAIN?
BRAD. BRAD GILLIS. I WAS IN A BAND CALLED **NIGHTRANGER**, BUT THEY'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING RIGHT NOW.
I'M A LITTLE NERVOUS ABOUT THIS GIG, THOUGH. IS IT TRUE THAT KIDS WERE STILL HOLDING UP BANNERS AND CHANT-ING RANDY'S NAME AT THE END OF THE LAST TOUR?
'S NOT GONNA BE EASY, BRAD. BUT WE'RE GONNA GIVE IT A SHOT. GOTTA KEEP MOVIN'!
THE TOUR IS SHAKY BUT SUCCESSFUL. HOWEVER, IN PROVIDENCE RHODE ISLAND, A FAN THROWS A CHERRY BOMB UP NEAR THE STAGE.
BLAM!
IT EXPLODES NEAR SHARON, AND THE FLASH NEARLY BLINDS HER. SHE'S RUSHED TO A NEARBY HOSPITAL.

LUCKILY, SHARON ONLY SUFFERS FROM MINOR INJURIES AND IS SOON READY TO BE RELEASED. OZ IS RELIEVED, THOUGH HE'S SOON STAGGERED ONCE AGAIN BY THE ARRIVAL OF SOME OTHER CONCERT ATTENDEES
ANOTHER ONE FROM THE ROCK SHOW. HER FRIEND SAYS SHE DID ACID. GOD, IT LOOKS LIKE SHE SLICED OFF HER OWN LEFT INDEX FINGER!
I...I NEVER SEE WHAT HAPPENS BEYOND THE LIGHTS THAT SHINE ON THE FRONT TWO ROWS...IS IT ALWAYS SUCH...MADNESS OUT THERE?
IT IS A SOBER OZZY OSBOURNE WHO ATTEMPTS TO SINK A PSYCHIC ANCHOR WITH A BID FOR DOMESTIC BLISS.
SHARON, THE DIVORCE IS FINAL, AS OF TODAY. WHEN THE TOUR FINISHES UP IN HAWAII, I'D LIKE TO START A NEW PROJECT...
LET'S GET MARRIED AND START A FAMILY... RIGHT AWAY!
SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT IDEA!
THE WEDDING TAKES PLACE ON JULY 4TH 1982. TOMMY ALDRIDGE IS BEST MAN, AND THE GROUP COMMANDERS THE WEDDING GROUP'S INSTRUMENTS TO JAM ON BEATLE SONGS ALL NIGHT LONG! MANAGEMENT BEGINS TALKS WITH OZ REGARDING HIS NEXT ALBUM, THOUGH HE BREAKS LONG ENOUGH FOR A LATE NIGHT LARK ON THE LETTERMAN SHOW.
REALLY, DAVID, BATS MAKE GREAT PETS, BETTER THAN A DOG. AND, BOY, ARE THEY CRUNCHY!
BACK AT THE OFFICE...
THE CONTRACT SPECIFIES AT LEAST ONE MORE ALBUM BEFORE RE-NEGOTIATING. WHY THE HELL HAVEN'T YOU GOTTEN BACK INTO THE SUDIO YET?

DON ARDEN, YER INHUMAN! YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN MY CAREER OR ME! OR, APPARENTLY, YER FLIPPIN' DAUGHTER. YOU JUST WANT ME ON THE ROAD OR IN THE STUDIO 45 WEEKS A YEAR, PUMPIN' MORE CASH INTO THE COFFERS!
I ANTICIPATED YOU'D BE RELUCTANT, SO I'VE MADE SOME... ARRANGEMENTS. WE COULD DO A LIVE ALBUM, EITHER CLEAN UP THE TAPES WE MADE WHILE RANDY WAS TOURING OR RECORD SOME NEW SHOWS... MAYBE SOME VINTAGE SABBATH STUFF. THOSE OLD SONGS HAVE PRE-SOLD AUDIENCE POTENTIAL.
NO WAY THIS GREASY SCOUSE IS GONNA EXPLOIT RANDY'S STUFF..
HMMM, I HEAR WHERE SABBATH IS PLANNIN' A LIVE ALBUM WITH THAT RUNT DIO SINGING MY SONGS. IT'D SERVE 'EM RIGHT IF I SHOWED UP AT THE SAME TIME WITH SAB CUTS...
AFTER ALL, THEY'RE "BLACK SABBATH" IN NAME ONLY, JUST ANOTHER BARELY COMPETENT ROCK BAND.
I BROUGHT ALL THE QUALITIES THAT MADE SABBATH GOOD TO BLIZZARD...THEY ONLY DREAM ABOUT MY SALES!
THIS COULD BE MY CHANCE TO TOTALLY BLOW THEIR OARS OUTTA THE WATER
ARDEN BOOKS TWO NIGHTS AT N.Y.'S RITZ, SEPTEMBER 26TH AND 27TH, WHERE THE BAND IS SCHEDULED TO TEAR THROUGH A LIVE SABBATH SET FOR THE SELECT AUDIENCE AND A BANK OF TAPE MACHINES.
OZ DREADS THE RETRO-RECORDING, BUT AGREES TO THE CONCERTS IN ORDER TO GET HIM OUT OF ARDEN'S CONTRACT. HOWEVER HE GETS DRUNK BEFORE THE GIG AND DISAPPEARS FOR A FULL DAY. UPON HIS RETURN...
JOHN, THERE YOU ARE! I'VE BEEN SO WORRIED... WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!
UH, I GOT A WEE HAIRCUT!
THE SESSIONS GO DOWN, AND THE DOUBLE LIVE ALL SABBATH SHOW, WHEN RELEASED, HITS U.S. #14 AND U.K. #21. SOUNDS MAGAZINE GIVES IT FIVE STARS AND COMMENTS "SABBATH WITHOUT OZZY IS A CORPSE, THEREFORE HIS CURRENT CRIME IS NECROPHILIA AND NOT RAPE!"

NOW'S A GOOD TIME TO CHECK BACK IN ON THE ORIGINAL SABS. JANUARY 1983 SEES THE RELEASE OF THEIR OWN "LIVE EVIL", THOUGH WE'VE ALREADY SEEN DIO QUIT AND BILL WARD DROP OUT BEFORE ITS APPEARANCE. THE RECORD ONLY GOES TO U.S. #37 AND U.K. #13.
IN JUNE...
BILL, GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE FEELING BETTER. ARE YOU UP TO RECORDING?
RECORDING?! TONY I THOUGHT THAT LIVE ALBUM WAS DIO'S LAST SABBATH CRY! I KIND OF BELIEVED THE PRESS WHEN THEY SAID YOU WERE BREAKING UP THE BAND!
NO WAY! I'VE GOT ONE OF THE BEST SINGERS IN ROCK ON HIS WAY DOWN RIGHT NOW. REMEMBER WHEN THE GUYS FROM DEEP PURPLE DID "JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR"?
YOU GOT IAN GILLAN ?!
WOW... I GUESS YOU CAN COUNT ME IN!
IN AUGUST, THE NEW SABBATH (WITH KEYBOARD PLAYER GEOFF NICHOLLS) PLAYS THE U.K. READING FESTIVAL, THOUGH BILL'S RECURRING BAD HEALTH NECESSITATES THE HIRING OF E.L.O.'S BEV BEVAN TO DRUM.
THE NEW ALBUM, OUT IN AUGUST, MAKES #4 IN THE U.K. BUT BARELY RIPPLES THE TOP FORTY IN AMERICA (#39). TIMES HAVE CHANGED, AND BLACK SABBATH (WITH THEIR POWERFUL BUT INCOMPATIBLE SINGER) ARE NOT KEEPING UP. OZZY, MEANWHILE, IS GOING THROUGH SOME CHANGES OF HIS OWN...

THE FIRST CHANGE IS USHERED IN WITH A PHONE CALL FROM OZ BASSIST, RUDY SARZO.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU WON'T BE ON THE TOUR?! THE FIRST BRITISH DATES ARE TWO WEEKS FROM NOW!
TELL OZ I'M SORRY, BUT I'M REJOINING QUIET RIOT. WE JUST RECORDED AN OLD SLADE SONG, "CUM ON FEEL THE NOIZE," AND THE REPS THINK IT'S GOT KILLER POTENTIAL. BESIDES, THIS IS MORE MY SCENE...OZ PRETTY MUCH RUNS THE WHOLE SHOW OVER THERE
GUITARIST BRAD GILLIS EXPRESSES SIMILAR SENTIMENTS.
I CAN DO MY OWN TYPE OF THING IF I REJOIN NIGHTRANGER, INSTEAD OF ALWAYS BEING HELD UP AGAINST THE GHOST OF RANDY RHOADS.
OH, ALL RIGHT. IT JUST SEEMS THAT YOU DIDN'T MIND RIDING RANDY'S COATTAILS THIS FAR! NOW I GOTTA FIND A NEW BATCH OF WANNABEES...
BY JANUARY 1983, SHARON HAS TAKEN OVER HER FATHER'S MANAGEMENT CONTRACT, AND SHE AND OZ BEGIN AUDITIONS. WORD GETS TO SAN DIEGAN JAKEY LOU WILLIAMS (AKA JAKE E. LEE), A STUDENT OF CLASSICAL GUITAR AT SAN DIEGO COLLEGE MUSIC CONSERVATORY.
WELL, GETTING FIRED FROM DIO WAS A...LEARNING EXPERIENCE. NOW I NEED ANOTHER GIG. LET'S SEE... WHAT'S THIS? "THE BLIZZARD OF OZZ?"
I KNOW SOME OZZY CUTS. "CRAZY TRAIN", "I DON'T KNOW" ...I SHOULD GO TO SIR REHEARSAL STUDIOS AND TOSS MY HAT INTO THE RING.
OZ LIKES JAKE'S GO-FOR-BROKE GONZO STYLE, AND JAKE BRINGS IN A FELLOW SAN DIEGAN, BASSIST DON COSTA (FROM THE GROUP DANTE FOX, NOW KNOWN AS GREAT WHITE).
OZZY OSBOURNE
OZ IS RECRUITED BY THEN LITTLE-KNOWN DETROIT SOULSTERS WAS (NOT WAS) FOR LEAD VOCALS ON "SHAKE YOUR HEAD (LET'S GO TO BED)"
YOU CAN'T BECOME INVISIBLE YOU CAN'T BULLSHIT THE DEVIL
SHAKE YOUR HEAD!

THE TOUR IS ON, THOUGH MIDWAY THROUGH IT, IN APRIL 1983, OZ COLLAPSES ON STAGE.
THE DOCTOR SAYS IT'S FROM TOO MUCH TOURING, LIQUOR AND, UM, THE "MEDICINES."
HEY, I'M BEING GOOD! MOST O' MY MEDICINES ARE PRE-SCRIBED! AN' I NEED SOME-THING TO CALM ME DOWN, THE WAY THAT DON COSTA RILES ME UP...
I KNOW, JOHN, BUT YOU'RE PRACTICALLY A HYPOCHONDRIAC! AND IF COSTA'S SUCH A PISSER, WHY DON'T YOU JUST RE-HIRE BOB DAISLEY?
Y'KNOW, I JUST MIGHT DO THAT...
HE DOES, AFTER BUSTING COSTA'S NOSE IN AN ARGUMENT (AH, BUT OZ PAYS TO HAVE THE SCHNOZZ REBUILT).
BUT FIRST, THERE'S THE MAY 29TH SET AT THE SECOND CALIFORNIA US FESTIVAL, ON "HEAVY METAL DAY", ALONG WITH VAN HALEN,* THE SCORPIONS, TRIUMPH AND 100,000 SCREAMING METALHEADS (HOW COULD THEY STAND WEARING ALL THAT LEATHER IN THE 100 DEGREE HEAT?!)
*RNR 16 - TODD
BY SUMMER 1983, THEY'RE ANXIOUS TO COMMIT TO SOME VINYL AT DE-PENDABLE RIDGE FARM STUDIOS.
OZ, JAKE, I'VE GOT GOOD NEWS. I SIGNED US A NEW CONTRACT WITH CBS IN AMERICA AND EPIC IN ENG-LAND! IT'S OUR BEST DEAL YET! AND YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT BE-ING MANAGED BY YOUR WIFE... CAN I DELIVER THE GOODS OR WHAT?
I SHOULD HOPE YOU CAN DELIVER! OUR BABY'S DUE IN THREE MONTHS!
THEIR DAUGHTER, AIMEÉ RACHEL (NAMED AFTER THE WOMAN KILLED IN THAT FATEFUL PLANE CRASH) IS BORN ON SEPTEMBER 2ND.
NEXT UP IS THE PHOTO SESSION FOR THE NEW ALBUM.
"I FEEL PRETTY, OH SO PRETTY..."

THEN IT'S BACK TO THE STUDIO TO FINISH THE L.P.
"THEY SAY I WORSHIP THE DEVIL, THEY MUST BE STUPID OR BLIND. I'M JUST A ROCK'N' ROLL REBEL!"
HIS LYRICS BELIE THE WISHES HE EXPRESSES PRIVATELY.
CRIPES, I'M IN MY MID-THIRTIES, I'M A FATHER AGAIN... IT'S ABOUT TIME I GOT ME HEAD TOGETHER.
I HONESTLY, SERIOUSLY, ABSOLUTELY MEAN IT WHEN I SAY THAT IT'S TIME TO QUIT BOOZE AND PILLS... SOON!!
OZ WILL STICK TO HIS NEWFOUND CONVICTION... OCCASIONALLY, WHEN IT SUITS HIM.
THE ALBUM IS OUT ON DECEMBER 2ND 1983, AND HITS U.S. #19 AND U.K. #24. THE BRITISH SHOWS ARE SCALED DOWN FROM PREVIOUS TOURS, BUT THE SELLOUT CROWDS REMAIN. JAKE E. LEE WINS HIS OWN DEVOTEES TO COMPLIMENT THE DIE-HARD CHURCH OF RHOADS
THE "BARK AT THE MOON" SINGLE AND VIDEO COME OUT (THOUGH THE VIDEO GETS LIGHT PLAY) AS OZ PREPARES TO SING IT, IN FULL WEREWOLF REGALIA, ON TOP OF THE POPS
WHY CAN'T I WEAR THE COSTUME?! DO YOU KNOW WHAT WE SPENT...
WELL, WE DON'T WANT TO FRIGHTEN THE WEE LADS! THE GET-UP GOES...
AAARRRGGGHHH...
OTHER CONFLICTS ARISE, INCLUDING THE TEMPORARY REPLACEMENT (AT LEAST UNTIL MARCH '84) OF DRUMMER TOMMY ALDRIDGE WITH CARMINE APPICE.
I HAD TO FIRE 'IM... FOR "MEDICAL REASONS." THE BLOODY YANK WAS MAKING ME SICK!

BUT FIRST THERE'S THE CHRISTMAS '83 LIVE CONCERT, BROADCAST OVER EROPEAN TV.
VOT IST DIS CRAZY STUFF?!
I DON'T KNOW, BUT I LUFF IT!!
JANUARY FINDS THEM IN THE U.S., SUPPORTED BY MOTLEY CRUE.*
YOU GUYS SUCKED AT THE US FESTIVAL, VINCE. THAT'S WHY WE PICKED YOUR BAND TO BACK US UP! NO THREAT!!
*RNR 4, PAGE 7-TODDELONIOUS
HEY, WE COULDN'T EVEN PUT ON OUR OWN MAKEUP BACK THEN, BUT WE'RE GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME! YOU'D BETTER WATCH YOUR ASS, OZ-MAN!
OZZY! DAMN IT, YOU JOINED THE ENTIRE BAND IN SWEARING OFF PRE-SHOW SEX, DRUGS, AND BOOZE FOR THIS TOUR!! AND HERE YOU ARE PARTYING....
HEY, MY BAND DIDN'T SWEAR TO NOTHING! AND I GUESS, LIKE MY MAMA SAID, I'M JUST A "BAD INFLUENCE!" HEH HEH...
YEAH, HA HA! OOOPS...
AS THE "SO TIRED" SINGLE CHARTS, OZ IS IN THE POKEY ONCE AGAIN, THIS TIME IN FLORIDA.
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR URINATING IN PUBLIC, YOU FILTHY CREEP!
HEY, I OFFERED TO LICK IT UP!
ALSO IN EARLY '84, OZ IS INJURED BY SHATTERED GLASS WHILE FILMING THE "SO TIRED" VIDEO. THE SHARDS LODGE IN HIS THROAT AND, LATER ON A PLANE, THE PRESSURE CAUSES THEM TO GO EVEN DEEPER. OZ CHECKS INTO THE HOSPITAL...
DOC, MY VOCAL CHORDS... WILL I EVER BE ABLE TO SING AGAIN?!
WELLL... AS GOOD AS YOU EVER COULD, I GUESS! HEH HEH...

MARCH 1984 ALSO BRINGS CHANGES IN THE SABBATH CAMP. IAN GILLAN IS OUT (BY MUTUAL CONSENSUS), BOUND FOR A PURPLE REUNION.* TONY IS DATING (AND DOING ONE-OFF SHOWS WITH) EX-RUNAWAY LITA FORD.
* RNR 10-TODDLER
OZ, HOWEVER, IS ON VACATION FROM TOURING AND RECORDING. ON OCTOBER 27TH 1984, HE AND SHARON HAVE THEIR SECOND CHILD, KELLY.
WHICH ONE IS YOURS, YOUNG MAN?
SEE THE BIG PUDGY ONE VOMITING ALL OVER THE BLANKETS?
ANOTHER CHIP OFF THE OL' BLOCK! THIS REALLY MAKES IT CLEAR THAT THINGS'VE GOTTA CHANGE AROUND THE OSBOURNE HOUSE. I WONDER IF ONE OF THOSE "DRY HEAVE" HOSPITALS CAN HELP ME CLEAN UP?
OZ SPENDS SIX WEEKS "CLEANING UP" AND IS RELEASED AT CHRISTMAS 1984.
THIS'LL BE THE FIRST NEW YEAR I'VE CELEBRATED SOBER IN SIXTEEN YEARS! I FEEL LIKE I JUST WOKE UP FROM A LONG, HORRID DREAM!
THE NEW MODEL BLIZZARD FLIES SOUTH TO APPEAR AT THE ROCK IN RIO FESTIVAL,* ALONG WITH IRON MAIDEN, THE SCORPIONS, WHITESNAKE AND OTHERS. MORE CHANGES LURK ON THE HORIZON...
WELL, TOMMY AND BOB ARE BOTH LEAVIN',** SO WE'LL BE LOOKING FOR A NEW BASSIST AND DRUMMER TO TOUR. BOB'LL STILL PLAY IN THE STUDIO, BUT HE'S SICK OF THE ROAD GRIND. CAN'T SAY I BLAME HIM.
* RNR 10! -TODD
** TOMMY LEAVES TO JOIN WHITESNAKE WITH RUDY SARZO, SEE RNR # 10! -TODDSKI
UH, BARTENDER, COULD I HAVE ANOTHER MINERAL WATER PLEASE?
UNBELIEVABLE...

LATER...
OZ, WE'VE GOT TO GET ON WITH HIRING SOME NEW GUNS.
YEAH, I KNOW, JAKE. I'VE BEEN PUTTING IT OFF. I'M NOT LOOKIN' FORWARD TO ANOTHER PARADE OF LEECHES.
THEY'VE GOTTA BE HUNGRY OR I WON'T HAVE THEM! I'M SO HUNGRY I WANT TO EAT THE WHOLE WORLD, THEN SPIT IT OUT AND EAT IT ALL OVER AGAIN! THIS NEW GROUP HAS TO BE THE GREEDIEST BAND EVER!
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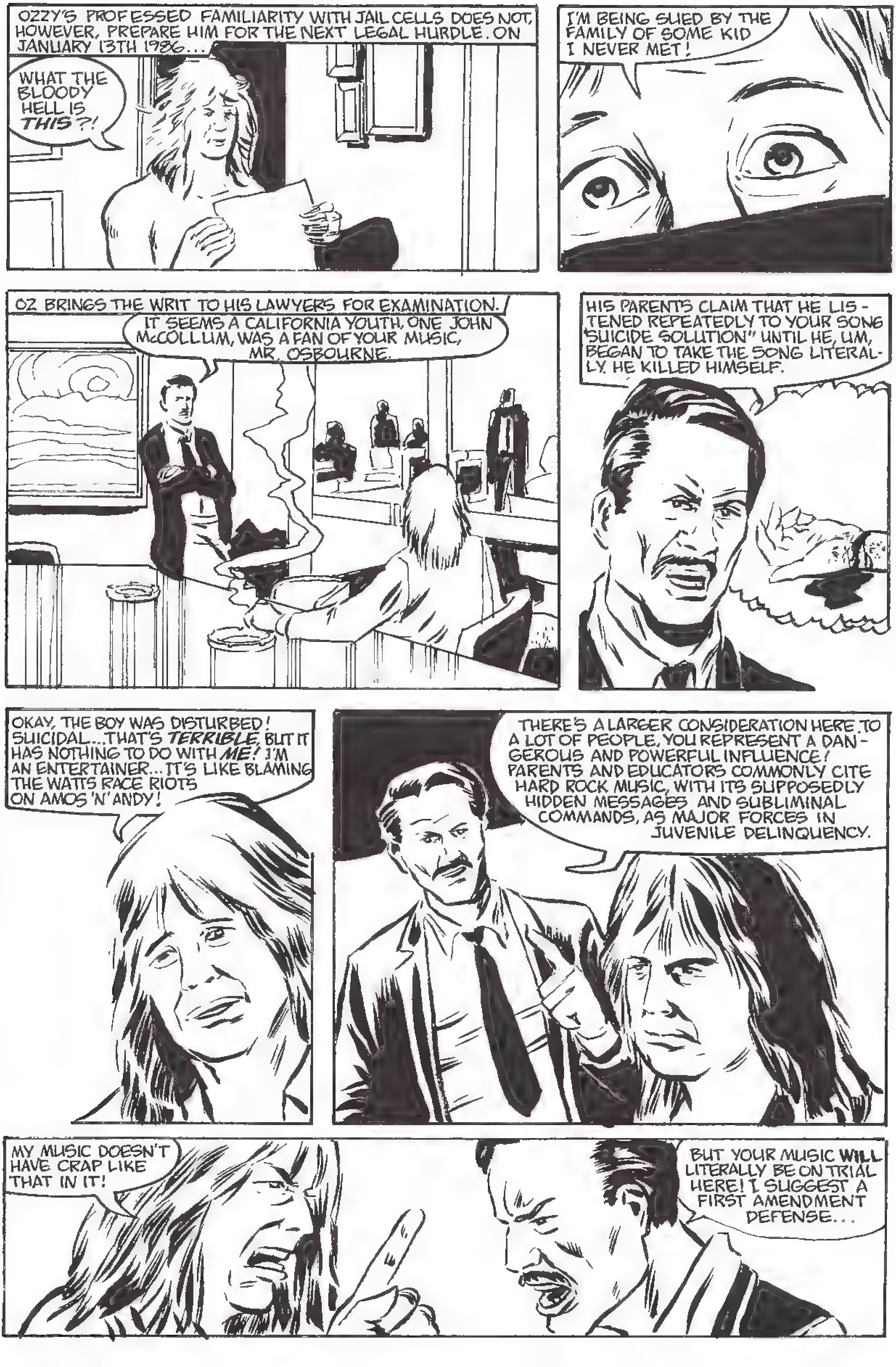
THE NEW BOYS ARE DRUMMER RANDY CASTILLO (LITA FORD BAND) AND SESSION BASSIST PHILIP SOUSSAN.
THE GROUP BEGINS RECORDING "THE ULTIMATE SIN" IN SPRING. OZ HAS A LITTLE TROUBLE STAYING... FOCUSED.
MAN, OZ, YOU SWORE! WE WROTE SOME GREAT, HARD-ROCKING SONGS TOGETHER. LET'S PLAY THEM TOGETHER!! DON'T FALL OFF THE WAGON AND WIG OUT ON US...
I KNOW, I KNOW. YOU DIDN'T KNOW ME TEN YEARS AGO. I'M MR. ROGERS COMPARED TO THEN!

OZ AND SHARON BUY A HUGE ESTATE IN HAMPSTED.
WE'LL NEED THE EXTRA ROOM FOR OUR FAMILY, NOW THAT I'M PREGNANT AGAIN!
OZ LET'S A CURIOUS TIDBIT SLIP OUT WHILE APPEARING ON A EUROPEAN TV SHOW, "THE MONSTERS OF ROCK."
WHAT ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF YOU REUNITING WITH BLACK SABBATH?
NOW AND AGAIN, PERHAPS, I THINK ABOUT IT. KEEP YER EAR ON THE PRESS...
IT TURNS OUT THAT OZ IS REFERING TO A CALL HE'D RECEIVED A FEW DAYS EARLIER.
OZ? GEEZER HERE. LISTEN, YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT THIS BIG CHARITY THING THAT BOB GELDOF'S DOING,"LIVE AID"? WE'RE PLAYING AND, UH, WE WERE WONDERING... ...YEAH? YOU WOULD?!?
SURE, WHY NOT? I HAVE NOTHING AGAINST SOME OF THOSE OLD SONGS, AND IT'D BE A PRESSURE-FREE WAY TO PLAY 'EM. NOBODY WILL FORCE US TO MAKE AN ALBUM OR TOUR...WE DO A SET, SMILE FOR THE CAMERAS AND SPLIT. 'COURSE IF TONY IOMMI IS STILL AS BORING AS HE USED TO BE, I MIGHT END UP PUNCHING HIM OUT BEFORE IT'S OVER!
THE IMPENDING REUNION IS ANNOUNCED IN JUNE 1985, AND OZ GOES TO PHILADELPHIA TO KNEAD THE PRESS.
SABBATH NEEDS ME. I DON'T NEED THEM. IT'S EASY TO SEE WHO'S MORE FAMOUS AND WHO SELLS MORE ALBUMS NOW.
BUT ISN'T THAT DUE AS MUCH TO YOUR ANTICS AS IT IS YOUR MUSIC?
CHRIST, DO YOU THINK I'M PROUD OF THE FACT THAT I MIGHT ONLY BE REMEMBERED AS THE GUY WHO BIT THE HEAD OFF A DOVE?! IT AIN'T MUCH OF A LEGACY, IS IT?
I'LL LIVE IT DOWN YET, THOUGH...

JULY 12TH: OZ AND SABBATH ARE PLAYING IN THE SAME ROOM FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVEN YEARS, AS THEY REHEARSE "IRON MAN", "CHILDREN OF THE GRAVE" AND "PARANOID."
THE NEXT DAY'S SHOW IS AN HISTORIC SUCCESS FOR ALL CONCERNED (THOUGH SABBATH PERFORMS UNDER THREAT OF A LAWSUIT FROM SHARON'S FATHER, DON ARDEN: THE SUIT IS LATER THROWN OUT OF COURT.
OZ SHARES A DRINK WITH GEEZER BUTLER BEFORE THEY ALL GO THEIR SEPARATE WAYS.
THANKS FER PUTTIN' IT TOGETHER, GEEZER. I JUST WISH THAT ARDEN HADN'T TRIED TO SCREW IT UP. EVERYTIME I COLLIDE WITH SABBATH, IT ENDS UP BAD NEWS. BUT IT WAS FUN...
LATER.....
IF THINGS WERE REVERSED, SHARON, AND *THEY* WERE RICHER AND MORE SUCCESSFUL AND *I* WAS DOWN AND OUT, WOULD THEY PLAY WITH ME? SOMEHOW, I DOUBT IT.
NOW, IF I'M NOT HAPPY WITH MY BAND, I *CHANGE* IT! THAT "BAND" SITUATION, LIKE WITH SABBATH... THAT PART OF MY LIFE IS WELL AND FINISHED. OVER.
UM, NOT QUITE, OZZY.

OZ REMAINS FURIOUS AT DON ARDEN FOR SOME TIME AFTER LIVE AID.
I MEAN, JESUS JAKE...HE ACCUSED ME OF TRYING TO GET SABBATH TO SWING OVER TO SHARON'S MANAGEMENT WITH ME! WANTED 1.5 MILLION! THE LAST THING I WANTED WAS TO REJOIN SABBATH.
PISSES ME OFF, IT DOES. LOTTA LOVE HE SHOWS HIS DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW.
MAN, OZ, I THOUGHT YOU WERE OFF THE SAUCE!
I AM...USUALLY. MY DOCTOR SAYS I'M LIMITED TO ONE DRINK A DAY...
...I'M UP TO NOVEMBER 1999 ALREADY! HEH!
IN AUGUST THE BAND IS FINISHING UP THE "ULTIMATE SIN" ALBUM.
THIS IS THE REAL THING, JAKE. THIS ALBUM IS IT!!
NOTHING I'M DOING IS AN ACT. IT'S NATURAL, THE WAY I AM. I DO GET DRUNK, I FIGHT, I GET ARRESTED, AND MY SONGS NEVER TRY TO HIDE THAT!
I'VE PROBABLY WOKEN UP IN MORE PRISON CELLS THAN I HAVE HOTEL ROOMS! THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THAT THE FOOD'S BETTER IN PRISON!



OZZY'S PROFESSED FAMILIARITY WITH JAIL CELLS DOES NOT, HOWEVER, PREPARE HIM FOR THE NEXT LEGAL HURDLE. ON JANUARY 13TH 1986...
WHAT THE BLOODY HELL IS *THIS*?!
I'M BEING SUED BY THE FAMILY OF SOME KID I NEVER MET!
OZ BRINGS THE WRIT TO HIS LAWYERS FOR EXAMINATION.
IT SEEMS A CALIFORNIA YOUTH, ONE JOHN McCOLLUM, WAS A FAN OF YOUR MUSIC, MR. OSBOURNE.
HIS PARENTS CLAIM THAT HE LISTENED REPEATEDLY TO YOUR SONG "SUICIDE SOLUTION" UNTIL HE, UM, BEGAN TO TAKE THE SONG LITERALLY. HE KILLED HIMSELF.
OKAY, THE BOY WAS DISTURBED! SUICIDAL...THAT'S *TERRIBLE*, BUT IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH *ME!* I'M AN ENTERTAINER...IT'S LIKE BLAMING THE WATTS RACE RIOTS ON AMOS 'N' ANDY!
THERE'S A LARGER CONSIDERATION HERE. TO A LOT OF PEOPLE, YOU REPRESENT A DANGEROUS AND POWERFUL INFLUENCE! PARENTS AND EDUCATORS COMMONLY CITE HARD ROCK MUSIC, WITH ITS SUPPOSEDLY HIDDEN MESSAGES AND SUBLIMINAL COMMANDS, AS MAJOR FORCES IN JUVENILE DELINQUENCY.
MY MUSIC DOESN'T HAVE CRAP LIKE THAT IN IT!
BUT YOUR MUSIC **WILL** LITERALLY BE ON TRIAL HERE! I SUGGEST A FIRST AMENDMENT DEFENSE...

OZ PUTS THE IMPENDING TRIAL OUT OF HIS MIND BY DIVING INTO A RAUCOUS SPRING TOUR THROUGH AMERICA, BRITAIN AND JAPAN.
GUYS, THE NEW ALBUM WILL BE ON THE RACKS IN JUNE. DO YOU WANT TO SEE THE FINISHED COVER ART? IT'S BY BORIS VALLEJO, THE ONE WHO DID THE CONAN MOVIE POSTER...
I LIKE THE "DEVIL-WOMAN" LOOK IN THE GIRL'S EYES. WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING AROUND THAT FOR THE "SHOT IN THE DARK" VIDEO!
THE VIDEO, WITH ITS IMAGES OF DEMONIC POSSESSION AT AN OZZY CONCERT, IS A HUGE MTV SUCCESS, AND THE ALBUM HITS #6 IN AMERICA.
IT'S A SPOOF, SEE? WE'RE MAKIN' FUN OF PEOPLE WHO CLAIM THAT ROCK STARS CAN "POSSESS" THEIR FANS AND IMPOSE THEIR WILL ON PERFECT STRANGERS.
IT'S A CROCK, INNIT?
THAT'S A MATTER OF SOME DEBATE. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT ROCK MUSIC'S VERY PERVASIVENESS MAKES IT INCREDIBLY INFLUENCIAL ON YOUNG TEENS. AND HEAVY METAL IS VERY ANTHEM-LIKE, AND IS OFTEN DELIVERED WITH A LARGELY DARK AND VIOLENT LITANY.

HOWEVER, THE CULPABILITY OF PERFORMERS, AND THE AMOUNT OF BLAME THEY SHOULD SHOULDER FOR THE ACTIONS OF THEIR ZEALOUS FANS, IS A QUESTION THAT THE PRESIDING L.A. SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE MUST ADDRESS ON DECEMBER 12TH 1986. HE REITERATES THAT, HOWEVER YOU SLICE IT, CENSORSHIP AND PUNISHMENT OF AN ARTISTIC STATEMENT IS W-R-O-N-G!
UNDER THE FIRST AMMENDMENT, SOCIETY CAN NOT HINDER CREATIVE EXPRESSION JUST IN ORDER TO AVOID THE DISSEMINATION OF IDEAS WHICH MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT EMOTIONALLY TROUBLED INDIVIDUALS.
THOUGH HIS MUSIC AND MESSAGE MAY BE DISTASTEFUL, AT BEST, MR. OSBOURNE CAN NOT BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE ACTIONS OF JOHN McCOLLUM. I HEREBY DISMISS THIS CASE.
ALL RIGHT!!! WE WON!!!
THIS TIME...
TONY IOMMI IS THE ONLY ORIGINAL SABBATH ON "SEVENTH STAR" WHEN IT IS RELEASED IN MARCH 1986. THOUGH IT EKES INTO THE TOP THIRTY IN ENGLAND, THE QUAALUDE SOMNAMBULISM OF THE ALBUM CAUSES IT TO BE IGNORED STATESIDE.
BLACK SABBATH
FEATURING TONY IOMMI
SEVENTH STAR
MEANWHILE THE BAND CALLING ITSELF BLACK SABBATH IS HAVING TRIBULATIONS OF ITS OWN

IN EARLY 1987...
WELL, I'VE BEEN SITTIN' ON THESE LIVE TAPES OF RANDY PLAYING WITH US LONG ENOUGH. WE'VE GOT ENOUGH TOP-NOTCH MATERIAL FOR A DOUBLE ALBUM...
...INCLUDING SOME STUDIO OUTTAKES. BUT I WANT IT RELEASED UNDER THE BANNER OF "OZZY OSBOURNE AND RANDY RHOADS."
THIS STUFF HAS HIS SOUL IN IT!
REALLY, THE ONLY TITLE THAT SUITS IT IS "TRIBUTE."
THE ALBUM IS OUT BY SUMMER AND HITS U.S. #6 AND UK #13.
A VIDEO CUT DRAWN FROM THE ALBUM, "CRAZY TRAIN", FEATURES OLD CONCERT FOOTAGE MIXED WITH SHOTS OF OZZY LEERING, THE HEAVY MAKEUP NOT ALTOGETHER HIDING THE DEEPENING CREVICES IN HIS FACE
OZZY'S PHOTOGENIC FEATURES ALSO GRACE THE HEAVY METAL PARODY FILM "TRICK OR TREAT" IN WHICH HE PLAYS, OF ALL THINGS, A PREACHER MAN! *
* RNR MAGAZINE #1: "KISSTORY LESSON." NOW AREN'T YOU SORRY YOU DIDN'T GET THAT? -TODDOLA

WHEN THE TIME FINALLY ARRIVES TO MAKE SOME NEW MUSIC, OZZY DECIDES THAT A NEW MODEL BAND IS IN ORDER.
I DON'T MIND SOUSSAN QUITTING, BUT PUSHING JAKE OUT OF THE NEST WAS TOUGH. THIS YOUNG KID, ZAKK WYLDE. HE REMINDS ME OF RANDY! TASTE-FUL *AND* FAST, AND HE NEEDS A BREAK. JAKE HAD HIS SHOT...
WHEN ZAKK SENT ME THIS TAPE, I DIDN'T BELIEVE THE BIO... A 21 YEAR-OLD GUITAR TEACHER FROM NEW JERSEY!
THE NEW RECORDING LINEUP IS OZZY, ZAKK WYLDE, RANDY CASTILLO, BOB DAISLEY (STUDIO ONLY) AND JOHN SINCLAIR ON KEYS. FAMED PRODUCER ROY THOMAS BAKER MANS THE BOARD.
THIS IS THE BLIZZARD WHICH BLOWS IN WITH "NO REST FOR THE WICKED" IN OCTOBER 1988. IT GOES TO #13 IN AMERICA AND #23 IN THE U.K.. OZ DOES A TWO MONTH U.S. TOUR BEFORE RETURN-ING HOME FOR AN EX-TENDED SIESTA.
SABBATH COUNTERS WITH "HEADLESS CROSS", AN IRONICALLY APT MONICKER FOR THE DIRECTION-LESS AL-BUM. WITH BILL WARD AND BUTLER STILL MIA, IT FEATURES IOMMI, COZY POWELL (RAIN-BOW), TONY MARTIN AND LAWRENCE COTTLE. "THE ETERNAL IDOL" RECORD LIKE-WISE SLIPS BENEATH THE WAVES.
BY THE FOLLOWING YEAR, EVERY-ONE'S BETS ARE ON OZZY. ESPECIALLY HIS RECORD COMPANY...
WELL, WHAT ABOUT AN E.P.? MAYBE RECORD A FEW OLD SABBATH SONGS...
SSHHH! HE *DID* THAT. HE HATES IT WHEN...
ACTUALLY, I *HAVE* BEEN HANGING ABOUT WITH GEEZER. IT'D BE A REAL KICK TO RECORD DEFINITIVE VERSIONS OF "SWEET LEAF" AND "WAR PIGS" ONE LAST TIME WITH GEEZER, ZAKK AND RANDY CASTILLO! THAT WOULD SAY IT *ALL* FOR ME! IT'D BE A CHAPTER OF MY MUSICAL HIS-TORY AND CAREER THAT I COULD CLOSE FOREVER!
THE E.P. IS OUT IN SPRING 1990, AND IT ALSO FEATURES A SUPERIOR RE-WORKING OF "SHOT IN THE DARK."
JUST SAY

AND THAT'S THE WAY THINGS STAND AS 1991 GETS WELL UNDERWAY. PERHAPS THINGS WILL EVENTUALLY TURN OUT LIKE THE **ROGER WATERS/PINK FLOYD** SPLIT: TWO TALENTED CONTINGENTS PROVIDING ***TWICE*** THE AMOUNT OF GOOD MUSIC THAT THEY HAD WHILE HANCUFFED TOGETHER. OR PERHAPS BOTH SABBATH AND OZZY ARE TOO FAR PAST THEIR CREATIVE PRIMES TO COME BACK FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE GRAVES. WHATEVER THE FUTURE BRINGS, NOBODY CAN EVER DENY THE BRASS AUDACITY, SOMBER FLAVOR AND IRON INFLUENCE THAT THESE SINGULAR TALENTS HAVE BROUGHT TO ROCK AND ROLL: OZZY OSBOURNE and BLACK SABBATH!

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